

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Priority is claimed to German Patent Application DE 102 40 759.2-21, filed August 30, 2003, ~~the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

German Patent Document DE 40 31 270 C1 describes means for ~~of~~ attaching an inside roof lining of a convertible top with a linkage and a flexible outer covering, pulling means which are guided on moveable linkage parts being used to tension the inside roof lining during a closing movement of the convertible top and, conversely, to release the same at the beginning of an opening movement of the convertible top. Such an arrangement does not provide any solution for the problems which arise specifically in the case of hard-shell tops, and are brought about by linkage parts pivoting to a large extent relative to the hard roof-shell parts.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The convertible-top linkage 10 is shown in detail in particular by way of the illustration of the convertible top in partially open positions (figures 2 and 3). Extending from a bodywork-mounted main-bearing unit 11 are two main links 12, 13, which form part of a main four-bar mechanism 14. The connecting rod of the main four-bar mechanism 14 is formed by a central link 15, on which the second, central roof part 5 is secured by means of a mount 15a. The first, front roof part 1 is secured in a similar manner on a mount 8a which, at the same time, forms the connecting rod of a front four-bar mechanism 8. The front four-bar mechanism 8 comprises two links 8b, 8c, which each are articulated on the central link 15, which thus forms a base rod of the front four-bar mechanism 8. The two links 8b, 8c of the front four-bar mechanism 8 together form a ~~rod-assembly~~ linkage 3, which is articulated on the front roof part 1, on the vehicle-interior side, and is pivoted relative to the front roof part 1 during an opening movement of the convertible top. The pivoting takes place in a positively controlled manner by a central control

link 16, which connects the main four-bar mechanism 14 to a rear four-bar mechanism 17. The rear roof part 6 is connected to the central link 15 by means of the rear four-bar mechanism 17, it being possible for the rear roof part 6 to be pivoted essentially parallel over the central roof part 5 by way of the four-bar mechanism 17 being pivoted in a driven manner by means of a dedicated drive device 18 (see figures 2 and 3). In a manner analogous to the linkage 3, links 17a, 17b of the rear four-bar mechanism 17 form a second linkage 7, which, on the one hand, is connected in an articulated manner to the rear roof part 6 and, on the other hand, is pivoted relative to the rear roof part 6 during an opening movement of the convertible top.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

The strip-like cover 2 is additionally secured, in a narrow ~~front~~ end region 2b, on the second, central roof part 5. A third mount for the cover is provided via a pulling device which, at one end, is connected to the cover and is guided via a guide ~~[[1b]]~~ 1c, in particular an eyelet, provided on the roof part 1. The other end of the pulling device is secured on the linkage 3, with the result that the movement of the linkage relative to the roof part 1 can be utilized for bracing the cover 2 in a final phase of a closing movement of the convertible top. The pulling device may be designed as a cable or band. Preferably, the pulling device includes an elastic material and/or is connected to a spring or similar device in order to load the cover by an elastic force. It is likewise conceivable for the pulling device to be configured as a rigid Bowden cable, by means of which it is also possible to transmit shearing forces for moving the cover away early at the beginning of an opening movement of the convertible top.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

The second cover 4 additionally has a stiffening ~~device 4e~~ device 4c, which is designed as a plastic shell connected to the otherwise flexible cover 4. This particularly advantageously ensures that the C-pillar region is covered by the second cover 4, this covering being more complex and extending over a larger surface area than the covering provided by the cover 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

That sectional view through the third, rear roof part 6 which is shown in figure 7 illustrates that the linkage 7 and other parts such as the main links 12, 13, in the closed state of the convertible top, are arranged between an outer surface 6b of the third roof part 6 and the second cover 4. The second cover 4 is pulled by the pulling device, in particular in the region of its stiffening ~~device 4e~~ device 4c, against a stop surface 19, which is designed as an angled element. It also stops against one of the main links 13, with the result that the second cover 4 is positioned in a particularly reliable manner.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The covering provided by the cover 2, 4 around the roof border, as can be seen from the sectional drawings in figures 6 and 7, generally directly adjoins sealing profiles 20, ~~21~~ of the roof-part edges.